

Weekly Views

November 18, 2011

Correctional Captain Cathy Elliott has been promoted to the rank of Correctional Major at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Major Elliott is the first female Major in the facility's history and also has the additional distinction of becoming the first female in the history of the Indiana Department of Correction to become a Major at a maximum security male facility. Congratulations Major Elliott!

Executive Director of Programs, Jerry Vance is proud to announce that in 2011, 2,999 IDs were issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles for soon-to-be released offenders. That number is almost twice the number of IDs that were issued last year. Kudos to Liz Johnson for her coordination of this effort, as well as kudos to the facilities for their hard work to facilitate this process. That's 2999 offenders who will return to the community with an ID who otherwise may not have had one.

On America Recycles Day, the Putnamville Correctional Facility was honored with an award by TREES Inc. for going "above and beyond" in its recycling efforts. The conservation of electricity, water, natural gas, steam and the use of wind energy have provided an unprecedented monetary saving for the facility and to the taxpayers of Indiana. Superintendent Stanley Knight attributed the success of the programs to the diligent efforts of staff and offenders.

The Terre Haute Tribune-Star took in a play at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. "Tuesdays with Mortie" is an eight act play, written by the offender participants and sponsor, Dr. Jacquelyn Frank of Eastern Illinois University. The play, an adaption of two works, "Tuesdays with Morrie" and "Les Miserables", was nearly a year in the making, offering an inspiring message of hope and forgiveness.

Recently, Internal Affairs Officer Kenneth Wiltsie, from the Indiana Women's Prison, heard a cry for help from a bystander whose friend had slumped over and stopped breathing. Due to Mr. Wiltsie CPR Training, he immediately took action and began to administer CPR chest compressions. When Paramedics arrived the gentleman had a pulse and was breathing as he was taken to the hospital. Our job is to reflect favorably on the Department of Correction. It is the belief of Superintendent McCauley that Mr. Wiltsie did just that. Good Job Mr. Wiltsie!

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and his Executive Staff hosted a tour of the Indiana State Prison, Westville Correctional Facility and Camp Summit Boot Camp to Daniel Heyns, Director of Michigan Department of Correction (MDOC) and Ed Mize, operations Manager from MDOC. Lunch was provided by Westville Correctional Facility's culinary arts program.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility has become one of 16 correctional facilities nationally to restore wheelchairs for the "Wheels of the World Program". The offenders participating in this program were trained by two representatives from Aura Hills, CA on how to breakdown and restore wheelchairs to "like new" condition. The inmates are learning teamwork, mechanical skills and a sense of pride that they produced a product that makes a difference in a person's life. Currently 61 wheelchairs have been restored by the offenders at Plainfield.

The PLUS Unit at New Castle Correctional Facility held a graduation for 35 offenders. The PLUS Unit also donated \$500 to Gods Grain Bin located in Henry County to buy food items for the holidays.

Offenders in the Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS Program sewed and donated over 100 quilts and 100 bags to the local Crisis Connection Agency. Crisis Connection will give these bags and quilts to women and children who are seeking assistance as a result of domestic violence. Materials for the quilts and bags were donated to the PLUS program by staff, visitors, and local businesses.

The students at Madison Juvenile Correctional facility participated in the American Red Cross "Holiday Mail for Heroes" program by creating and decorating over 150 Christmas cards to be sent to soldiers overseas.

A crew of ten Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility residents participated in a Habitat for Humanity home building project. The crew assisted with preparing the house for dedication to a single mother of two children, and with cleaning the worksite.

Miami Correctional Facility recognized several staff for outstanding service during its quarterly recall meeting. Recognized for Employees and Supervisor of the Quarter were: Officer Jake Kieninger, Officer of the Quarter; Correctional Caseworker Bill Taylor, Employee of the Quarter, and Sergeant Matthew Jones, Supervisor of the Quarters. Several other awards were given out to Captain Doug Nelson, Officer Larry Fleenor, Major Michael Hale, Tricia Pretorius, Jim Dibble and Lester Jeffries. Superintendent Mark Sevier also announced the promotions of three men to Lieutenant at Miami. Those promoted are Jason Tedder, Christopher Ertel, and Matthew Clothier. Congratulations all!

The Plainfield Correctional Facility completed its first Thinking For a Change 3.0 class. 12 offenders graduated from the class after completing 50 hours of instruction. The class teaches cognitive thinking skills such as how to avoid conflicts, problem solving, and improving social skills.